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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

USSR STEEL PLANTS MEET PLANS, SPEED PRODUCTION

[Numbers in parentheses refer to the sources listed at the end.]

In the third quarter 1949, full utilization of blast-furnace capacity in the USSR metallurgical industry was 7 percent higher than in the third quarter 1948 and the volume of steel recovered per square meter of open-hearth furnace sole was 11 percent over the third quarter 1948. Labor productivity in the metallurgical industry increased 12 percent over the third quarter 1948. (1)

In Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, metallurgical enterprises have considerably exceeded the 1950 production level. In October, blast furnace No 1 in the Dneprodzerzhinsk Plant (Imeni Dzerzhinskiy) achieved a coefficient of utilization of blast-furnace capacity of 0.56, the best record yet achieved in plants in the Dnepr region. (2) A steelworker in the plant's open-hearth shop No 2 achieved a record yield of 10.23 tons of steel per square meter of furnace sole, almost double the progressive norms (3). In September, the plant completed its 2,000th high-speed melt (4).

At the Dnepropetrovsk Plant imeni Petrovskiy, since the beginning of the year, the leading furnace in open-hearth shop No 1 has had an average yield of 6.26 tons of steel per square meter of furnace sole as compared with the planned 5.46 tons (5).

By 31 October, in Dnepropetrovsk the Plant imeni Lenin had completed its 10-month plan for the entire production cycle, and the Plant imeni Karl Libknekt had produced many tons of pipe for the petroleum industry above the 10-month plan (6).

Among the effects of the first month of the drive for better production procedure in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast enterprises was an increase in October of 10 percent in labor productivity at the Kikopol' southern Pipe Plant. Idleness of major equipment was cut 8.5 percent, and output of first-grade pipe was raised to 96.6 percent in the pipe-rolling shop and 97.3 percent in the cold-drawing shop. (7) By 21 September, the plant had completed its 9-month plan for pipe production and had increased pipe output 62 percent over the same period in 1948. In 8 months, the plant realized 40,793,000 rubles in profits. (4)

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The Dnepropetrovsk Steel Structures Plant imeni Molotov completed the 1949 plan in September and is now producing toward the 1950 goal. It had achieved the 1950 production level in 1948. (3) The plant is now working on an order for structures for the 32-story building of the Moscow State University, having completed an order for 5,7000 tons of steel structures for the 26-story building on Smolensk Square in Moscow (9). In September, the plant introduced on a wide scale the method of automatic welding developed by Academician Paton (10).

In Voroshilovgrad Oblast, the Almaznyanskiy Metallurgical Plant has reached the 1950 level in production volume. All its basic production processes are mechanized. The coefficient for capacity utilization of a blast furnace is 0.87. (11)

Each melt in the open-hearth shop of the "Azovstal'" Plant, Staling Oblast, is done in 2 hours less time than at the beginning of the year. The recovery of steel per square meter of furnace sole is now 7.1 tons as compared with 6.7 tons in January 1949. (12)

The Konstantinovka Metallurgical Plant imeni Frunze, Staling Oblast, is now producing almost twice as much metal as at the beginning of 1946. Since the beginning of 1949, the plant has completed nearly 1,100 melts by high-speed methods. (13)

On 31 October, the "Zaporozhstal'" Plant completed the 10-month plan for the entire metallurgical cycle. In comparison with last year, production of pig iron has increased 70.2 percent, 240 percent for steel, and 48.6 percent for rolled products. (14) The average recovery of steel per square meter of furnace sole in furnace No 1 of the plant's open-hearth shop for October was 7.45 tons. The norm is 4.8 tons (15).

Formerly, a yield of 6-7 tons of steel per square meter of furnace sole was considered tops at the Stalingrad "Krasnyy Oktyabr'" Plant. A new record of 9 tons 290 kilograms was set there in October by an outstanding worker. (16) The highest postwar record for number of ingots rolled per worker at the plant's blooming mill is 231 per shift (17).

A new record for steel production was set in October at the Rostov Metallurgical Plant imeni Andreyev. One worker obtained a yield of 10.8 tons of steel per square meter of furnace sole, and other workers have been maintaining this record. (18)

On 13 October, the Moscow "Serp i molot" Plant completed the Five-Year Plan for the entire metallurgical cycle (19). On 26 September, the plant completed the 9-month plan for the entire production cycle -- steel output, rolled steel, steel cable, and gross production. Labor productivity had increased 15.6 percent (20), steel production 15.7 percent, and production of finished rolled products 18.3 percent over the same period of 1948. Production of calibrated steel and steel cable also showed a considerable gain, and production costs were cut 22.2 million rubles. The following shops have increased production substantially over 1948 and are producing above the 1950 level: open-hearth shops, rolling, sheet rolling, cable, calibration, and steel wire shops. In open-hearth shop No 1, the average daily productivity of one furnace has increased by 10.1 tons over 1948 and by 45.1 tons over 1940. (21) On 25 October, the plant completed the 10-month gross-production plan (22).

The plant's successes were mainly due to increased mechanization of production processes. For developing and introducing new technology in open-hearth smelting and for speeding the process by using oxygen, a group of plant engineers and metallurgical scientists were awarded the Stalin Prize last spring. (19) Soaking pit No 6 of the plant's "750" Rolling Mill was put back into operation in September after being reconditioned. The pit has been made completely automatic and is equipped with more efficient measuring and control instruments. (23)

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In its October campaign to increase the length of furnace runs between repairs to 210 melts, the plant achieved the following results. One open-hearth furnace achieved a run of 279 melts, including 112 high-speed melts, two furnaces achieved runs of 300 melts, while another made 259 melts between repairs. (24)

Individual workers have been campaigning to increase steel production. In the third quarter, the plant set an all-Union record for high productivity in steel making. In the all-Union competition among metallurgical industry workers for the third quarter 1949, a "Serp i molot" steelworker was given the title of "Best Steelworker" for his record of obtaining 10 tons of steel per square meter of furnace sole as compared with the norm of 9 tons. One of the plant's foremen was given the title "Best Foreman of an Open-Hearth Shop" for achieving a record for his section of 7.33 tons of steel per square meter of furnace sole. (25)

Individual achievements in October also set new records. Open-hearth shop No 2 set a record of 14.5 tons of steel per square meter of furnace sole, a record considerably higher than progressive norms. (26) This was superseded by a yield of 16.7 tons, 8 tons above the norm (27), and the latest record is 19.27 tons made on 31 October in the second open-hearth shop (28).

Also the Moscow Hard Alloys Plant (director, I. Yankovskiy), has made considerable progress this year. As of 19 September, the plant had turned over to the state one million rubles released from working capital since the beginning of the year and expects to release an additional 500,000 rubles by the end of 1949. In 8 months, the plant realized 2,695,000 rubles in above-plan profits. Its financial success has been achieved by introduction of new methods and rapid sale of products. New automatic machines, installed in the existing production area and built by the plant's efficiency experts in collaboration with scientific workers of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Hard Alloys, have helped to increase labor productivity 100 percent and to increase by a considerable extent the output of high-grade products. (29)

In the Urals, the Iys'va Metallurgical Plant, Molotov Oblast, has had some success in increasing the furnace run between repairs. A total of 296 melts were made in open-hearth furnace No 1 as compared with the norm of 160, and 275 melts were made in furnace No 4 between repairs. (30)

In October, the new and old metallurgical plants in Nizhniy Tagil increased the volume of pig iron smelted per cubic meter of blast-furnace capacity by more than 200 kilograms as compared with the August volume (31). The efforts of the Novo-Tagil'sk Metallurgical Plant to cut down production time has resulted in increased production. In the second quarter, compared with the first, production of pig iron increased 12 percent, steel 11 percent, and rolled steel 9 percent, and the plant reached the 1950 production level. The coefficient for utilization of blast-furnace capacity was improved from 0.91 in the first quarter to 0.88 in the second and to 0.86 in the third quarter. Steelworkers in the open-hearth shop were able to complete more than 300 high-speed melts in the second and third quarters as the result of automatization of the control of the fuel system in the furnaces. (32)

The Serov Metallurgical Plant, Sverdlovsk Oblast, has achieved a record coefficient of 0.67 for average capacity utilization of the blast furnaces operating on coke. The October record, set at furnace No 3, was one ton of pig iron per 0.55-0.60 cubic meters of furnace capacity. The Serov blast furnaces and rolling mills have completed the Five-Year Plan for production level. (33)

The Kazakh Metallurgical Plant in Temir-Tau has achieved the 1950 level for output of rolled steel and for steel smelting. It completed the September and 9-month plans ahead of schedule. (34)

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The Belovo-Salairskiy Combine, Kemerovo Oblast, for several years had fallen short of state production plans, chiefly because its director, Gayvoronskiy, was indifferent toward increasing production. Since then, the combine's management has been changed and the combine has begun to exceed its monthly plans. Output of steel increased 150 percent, and in March the combine achieved the 1950 level for steel smelting. (13)

The record for recovery of steel per square meter of furnace sole in the open-hearth shop of the Petrovsk-Zabaykal'skiy Metallurgical Plant, Chita Oblast, is now 7.2 tons (35).

The Vyatskiy Metallurgical Plant, Karelo-Finnish SSR, completed its 1949 plan in October (36).

The extensive campaign in the metallurgical industry for high-speed melts at intense temperatures has created a demand for high-quality refractory materials. Some metallurgical enterprises need heat-resisting electrode blocks. When this requirement was presented to the Moscow Electrode Plant, it could not fulfill it. This plant's technology is not stable and its personnel, particularly shop chiefs, are not qualified. Poor administration on the part of the "Soyuzelektrod" Trust and the technical administration of the ministry are also responsible for the lack of technological progress in the plant. (37)

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